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Page Earns All-University Advising Award

- *The award recognizes high-quality advising across the University of Minnesota.*
- *Undergraduate advising has the ability to make or break a student's career, so the key, Page says, is to value it.*
- *Page credits her nominators and the campuswide culture of advising for this honor.*

Michelle Page, associate professor of education, is a 2018 recipient of the [University of Minnesota John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising](#). Since 1986 the Tate Awards have recognized high-quality advising at the University of Minnesota.

The “Thing”

The secret to great advising, Page says, is to value it. While she argues there's no one right way to be a good adviser, a value mindset can set one up to succeed, no matter their personal style.

“If you care about advising, students sense that and come to you,” says Page. “If you care about advising, you want to learn more. You devote time to it. That's where the root is.”

Part of that value mindset is recognizing just how big a role advising plays in a student's success, especially at the undergraduate level. Impacting everything from course selection and degree completion to support networks and social confidence, advising has the ability to make or break a student's career. And it's all part of the learning process.

“I look at it as an extension of teaching,” says Page. “Sometimes we're teaching technical skills like how to use the tools offered here. But sometimes a student is running into some roadblock, and it's my responsibility to help them work through it, just as I would help a student in my class. Advising looks a little bit different, but it's the same general idea.”

Culture of Advising

Page believes her Tate award says “more about [her] nominators” than it does her. Because the Morris campus relies on faculty advisers, the process is discussed more openly than at some other institutions. Page says this culture of advising, combined with UMN's affirmation of it, is a powerful and unique thing—one that's bigger than a single recipient.

“The Tate is really powerful because it lends institutional value to a process that is very important, but isn't often acknowledged,” she says. “None of us does this alone, and I honor the work of all of the amazing advisers on our campus. I feel like I'm representing all of us.”

“UMM has exceptionally strong advisers in faculty who know and help students navigate not just a single academic program, but an array of academic and co-curricular options, opportunities, and possibilities,” adds Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean Janet Ericksen.

“The Tate Award is welcome and important recognition of the time and attention required for doing such work well.”

Page and the other award recipients were honored on Thursday, March 8, at the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities campus.

About Page

[Page](#) earned a bachelor of arts in English and French with secondary education at Concordia College. She holds a master of science and doctorate in curriculum and instruction with a literacy and multicultural education emphasis from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Morris’s ninth Tate recipient, she’s also earned an [all-University Horace T. Morse—University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education](#) and a [University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award](#).

About the Tate Award

By acknowledging professionals for their outstanding commitment to students, the Tate Awards serve to recognize and reward high-quality advising at the University of Minnesota. First awarded in 1986, the John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising is named in honor of John Tate, professor of physics and first Dean of University College. Learn more at academic.umn.edu